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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/908,983	Applicant(s) O'SHAUGHNESSY ET AL.	
	Examiner Ting Zhou	Art Unit 2173	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 December 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 3,5,6,8,11-13 and 15-53 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 3,5,6,8,13,15-25 and 27-53 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 11-12 and 26 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 27 September 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. The amendment filed on 20 December 2004 have been received and entered. The applicants has cancelled claims 1-2, 4, 7, 9-10 and 14 and added new claims 30-53. The applicant states that new claims 30-55 were added, however, the examiner notes that the applicant has only presented new claims 30-53 in the *Response to Non-Compliant Amendment* filed on 20 December 2004. The examiner did not find claims 54-55 presented with the amendments to the claims and therefore, only claims 3, 5-6, 8, 11-13 and 15-53 as amended are considered.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 11-12 and 26 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: The present invention teaches an interface that combines communications and file management. Claims 11 and 26, when taken with parent claims 30, 43 and 8 for claim 11, and parent claims 22, 24 and 25 for claim 26 as a whole, are distinct over the prior art. Each of claims 11 and 26, when taken with parent claims 30, 43 and 8 as a whole, identify the distinct feature of determining whether a first resulting message is text, and if the first resulting message is text, adding the contents of the first resulting message as a sticker to all the other resulting messages and deleting the first resulting box from the inbox. Claim 12, when taken with parent claims 30, 43 and 8 as a whole, identify the distinct feature of if the communication is a record in the standardized format, determining whether the communication

includes files which are not one of the one or more files of the communication; if the message includes files which are not one of the one or more files of the communication, determining a form of encoding for the one or more files of the communication and decoding the one or more files of the communication according to the form of encoding. The closest prior art, Microsoft Outlook (Screenshots 1-19) teaches an email program interface for filtering and manipulating email files with attachments. However, the prior art fails to teach “determining whether a first resulting message is text, and if the first resulting message is text, adding the contents of the first resulting message as a sticker to all the other resulting messages and deleting the first resulting box from the inbox”, or “if the communication is a record in the standardized format, determining whether the communication includes files which are not one of the one or more files of the communication; if the message includes parts which are not one of the one or more files of the communication, determining a form of encoding for the one or more files of the communication and decoding the one or more files of the communication according to the form of encoding”, when taken with their corresponding base and intervening claims as a whole. Thus, the prior art fails to anticipate or render the above limitations obvious.

Claim Objections

3. Claims 12, 17, 22, 25, 27, 39 and 53 are objected to because of the following informalities:

- a. The use of the phrase “if the message includes which are not” on line 7 of claim 12 is grammatically incorrect. The examiner assumes that this is a typographical error

b. The meaning of “in response, said receiving another instance” on line 6 of claim 17 is unclear. The examiner assumes that this is a typographical error and that the claim was meant to be written as -- in response to said receiving another --. It is suggested that the phrase be rewritten in this manner.

c. The use of “folders. within one activity folder” on lines 18-19 of claim 22 is grammatically incorrect. The examiner assumes that this is a typographical error and that the claim was meant to be written as -- folders within one activity folder --. It is suggested that the phrase be rewritten in this manner.

d. The use of the phrase “to to a current user defined activity” on lines 13-14 of claim 25 is grammatically incorrect. The examiner assumes that this is a typographical error and that the claim was meant to be written as -- to a current user defined activity --. It is suggested that the phrase be rewritten in this manner.

e. The use of the phrase “ in the email communications in in related one or more attachment files of an activity folder” on lines 3-5 of claim 27 is unclear. The examiner assumes that this is a typographical error and that the claim was meant to be written as -- in the email communications in the related one or more attachment files --. It is suggested that the phrase be rewritten in this manner.

f. The use of “manipulating the identified file from in activity folder” on line 4 of claim 39 is grammatically incorrect. The examiner assumes that this is a typographical error and that the claim was meant to be written as -- manipulating the identified file from the activity folder --. It is suggested that the phrase be rewritten in this manner.

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g. The use of “application type with;” and “associating one or more functionalities with the objects of different types coupling the associated functionalities of the objects such that these functionalities are available to a user within the user defined activity folder” on lines 7 and 10-12, respectively, of claim 53 are grammatically incorrect. The examiner assumes that this is a typographical error and that the claim was meant to be written as -- application type; -- and --associating one or more functionalities with the objects of different types and coupling the associated functionalities of the objects such that these functionalities are available to a user within the user defined activity folder--, respectively. It is suggested that the phrase be rewritten in this manner.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

4. Claims 45 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. The added negative limitation of “without a communication” to claim 45 was not explicitly

described in the specification. The examiner respectfully points out that negative limitations must be positively recited, albeit negatively, in the specification in order to have basis for being explicitly excluded in the claims (MPEP 2173.05(i)).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

5. Claim 45 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. It is unclear to the examiner how the method claimed can identify one or more files of one or more application types without a communication when the files of one or more application types are comprised by the communication. As defined by the limitations of base claim 13, upon which claim 45 is dependent, a communication comprises one or more files of one or more application types. If there are no communications, then there would not be files of one or more application types. The applicant fails to clearly and distinctly point out how files of one or more application types can be identified without a communication.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

6. Claims 3, 5-6, 8, 13, 17-25 and 28-53 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Microsoft® Outlook, copyright 1998 (Screenshot 1).

Referring to claim 22, Microsoft Outlook teach a computer program product comprising code for receiving communications files (receiving email), wherein a communication file comprises one or more application type files (emails can comprise one or more application type files, or attachments) (Screenshot 2); code for selecting an activity folder where an activity folder has at least one or more separate current user-defined activity folders (user-defined and named folders, shown on the left hand side of the Outlook interface in Screenshot 2, where incoming mails are placed; for example, an activity folder such as “Inbox” can have at least one or more separate folders within the “Inbox” folder); and code for associating the communications files comprising one or more application type files into separate current user defined activity folders (placing incoming emails into appropriate folders) (Screenshot 3), including code for allocating the separate user defined activity folders within the activity folder for each of the communication files comprising one or more application type files, thereby providing an activity folder which includes related communications files comprising one or more application type files in separate user defined activity folders within one activity folder (received emails, with attached

Referring to claim 30, Microsoft Outlook teaches a method comprising automatically identifying a communication comprising one or more files of one or more application types (receiving an incoming email comprising one or more attached files or one or more types, such as PowerPoint and Excel files) (Screenshot 5); automatically storing each of the files of the communication as separate files in a particular activity folder and thereby automatically allowing the separate files of the communication to be manipulated from the particular activity folder regardless of the application type (receiving mail comprising one or more attached files can automatically be placed in a particular folder, as shown in Screenshot 3, according to the rules set up by the user, as shown in Screenshot 4; furthermore, as shown in Screenshot 5, each of the attached files of the mail message within the folders has a separate status in that users can manipulate, i.e. select, each individual file individually).

Referring to claim 3, Microsoft Outlook teaches the one or more files of the communication include attachment notes, file identification modifiers, external file links, etc. (the file attachments can include attached notes, i.e. memos, hyperlinks to web pages, PowerPoint slides, etc.) (Screenshot 6).

Referring to claims 5 and 24, Microsoft Outlook teaches providing a control record for each of the one or more files of a communication in a directory location for indexing the one or more files of a communication and for each of the one or more files of the communication, providing a communications record in the activity folders (index, or tree of folders and their contents shown on the GUI of Screenshot 2; for example, for each file in each folder of the Microsoft Outlook GUI shown in Screenshot 2, a control record including information categories such as "From", "Subject" and "Received", are shown on the top right hand side).

Referring to claim 6, Microsoft Outlook teaches displaying a folder tree (hierarchical tree display of folders, as shown on the left hand side of the Outlook interface in Screenshot 2); displaying the contents of an activity folder (displaying the contents, i.e. files, of a folder on the top of the right hand side of the Outlook interface in Screenshot 2); and storing the separated files of the communication as related files within the particular activity folder (each of the separate attached files of a communication, or email, are placed together as related files of a particular email within the folder) (Screenshot 5).

Referring to claim 8, Microsoft Outlook teaches transferring email communications and related attachments to and from a host and manipulating data included in the email communications and related attachments (sending and receiving email via the Outlook interface shown in Screenshot 2, and manipulating the attached files of the emails within the activity folder, such as selecting and opening an attachment, as shown in Screenshot 5), the transfer including determining whether the one or more files of the communication is a record in a standardized file format; if the one or more files of the communication is a record in the standardized format, presenting the record in an ordered manner (determining if the message with a plurality of attached files is a record, or email in a standardized format, i.e. a format that matches a filter rule, and if the mail file does meet the filter rules, present, or place the mail file in the corresponding folder, as shown in Screenshots 3-4); and determining whether the one or more files of the communication is a record in a predetermined format (determining whether the message has associated attachments, with the display of an attachments indicating icon shown in Screenshot 2), and permitting the user to assign the file attachments to a respective folder by allocating the file attachments folder space in a file folder of the files to which the file

Screenshot 2), and permitting the user to assign the file attachments to a respective folder by allocating the file attachments folder space in a file folder of the files to which the file attachments are associated (users can select email files with associating file attachments and store them into different directory folders, as shown in Screenshots 9-10 and 12-13), wherein the activity folder comprises related attachments regardless of application type (the folders comprises email with related attachments, i.e. the attachments of a particular email are related as being associated with that email file) (Screenshot 5) and the activity folder is one of the following: a user-defined folder, a system-defined folder, a program-defined folder (the folders can be defined by the user, i.e. via users creating and renaming the folders, as shown in Screenshots 7 and 8).

Referring to claim 13, Microsoft Outlook teaches executing a find routine to locate a first file in an activity folder (as shown in Screenshot 14, users can use the "Find" tool to locate items in the "Inbox" folder); making a temporary list of extended file information records (a list of matching records with their corresponding extended information such as "From", "Subject", etc.) (Screenshot 14); determining if extended file information for the file is available, if the extended file information for the file is available, displaying file information concerning the file (displaying available extended file information for the file, or email, such as "From", "Subject", "Received" and whether there are attachments) (Screenshot 14); determining if a sticker note associated with the file is found and if the sticker note is found, displaying the existence of the sticker note (displaying an icon indicating attachments, if any) (Screenshot 15); determining if tag information associated with the file is found and if the tag information is found, displaying the existence of the tag information (displaying an indication if the file has been tagged, as

(extended information, tag information, and sticker notes available are displayed for each file found via the find routine) (Screenshots 14-16).

Referring to claims 17 and 28, Microsoft Outlook teaches tagging a file in response to a predetermined mouse click (the file selected by the user via a mouse click selection is tagged for user manipulation such as moving it to another folder) (Screenshots 12-13); providing a representation of the file in a mouse “drag” representation to follow the mouse until receiving another instance of the predetermined mouse click (dragging the file until another mouse click is received, which causes the file to be dropped into the selected folder) (Screenshots 12-13); and providing a “release mouse click” function in response to the receiving another mouse click (in response to receiving another mouse click, or releasing the clicked mouse, the release mouse click function of dropping the file into the selected folder is carried out; for example, the user selected, or tagged file via a mouse click on the file, shown highlighted in Screenshot 12 is dragged and dropped onto the “Co-workers” folder upon the release of the mouse click, as shown Screenshot 13).

Referring to claim 18, Microsoft Outlook teaches tagging a file in response to a predetermined mouse click (the file selected by the user via a mouse click selection is tagged for user manipulation such as moving it to another folder) (Screenshots 12-13); providing a representation of the file in a mouse “drag” representation to follow the mouse until receiving another instance of the predetermined mouse click (dragging the file until another mouse click is received, which causes the file to be dropped into the selected folder) (Screenshots 12-13); providing a “release mouse click” function in response to the receiving another mouse click (in response to receiving another mouse click, or releasing the clicked mouse, the release mouse

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click function of dropping the file into the selected folder is carried out; for example, the user selected, or tagged file via a mouse click on the file, shown highlighted in Screenshot 12 is dragged and dropped onto the “Co-workers” folder upon the release of the mouse click, as shown Screenshot 13); accepting user inputs for file manipulation commands and performing a file manipulation subroutines corresponding to user inputs (receiving user input of file manipulation commands such as selecting and dragging the file and carrying out the user inputted command; for example, user manipulation of the file shown in Screenshot 12 of selecting and dragging the file to the “Co-workers” folder causes the manipulation subroutine to place the file into the “Co-workers” folder, as shown in Screenshot 13).

Referring to claims 19 and 29, Microsoft Outlook teaches accepting user inputs for file manipulation by tagging a file in response to a predetermined mouse click (the file selected by the user via a mouse click selection is tagged for user manipulation such as moving it to another folder) (Screenshots 12-13); providing a representation of the file in a mouse “drag” representation to follow the mouse until receiving another instance of the predetermined mouse click (dragging the file until another mouse click is received, which causes the file to be dropped into the selected folder) (Screenshots 12-13); providing a “release mouse click” function in response to the receiving another mouse click (in response to receiving another mouse click, or releasing the clicked mouse, the release mouse click function of dropping the file into the selected folder is carried out; for example, the user selected, or tagged file via a mouse click on the file, shown highlighted in Screenshot 12 is dragged and dropped onto the “Co-workers” folder upon the release of the mouse click, as shown Screenshot 13); performing a file manipulation subroutines corresponding to user inputs (receiving user input of file manipulation

commands such as selecting and dragging the file and carrying out the user inputted command; for example, user manipulation of the file shown in Screenshot 12 of selecting and dragging the file to the “Co-workers” folder causing the manipulation subroutine of placing the file into the “Co-workers” folder, as shown in Screenshot 13); selectively associating file attachments with selected ones of the files, and locating the file attachments in the respective folder by allocating the file attachments folder space in a file folder of the files to which the file attachments are associated (users can select email files with associated file attachments and store them into different directory folders, as shown in Screenshots 9-10 and 12-13); and the association of the subset of the communications files with the current folder including allocating the communications files with a file folder definition of the current folder, thereby providing a common folder structure which includes communications files in individual file folders containing related user files (incoming mail files are filtered and sorted into corresponding folders containing related mail files, as shown in Screenshot 3, according to user set up rules shown in Screenshot 4).

Referring to claim 20, Microsoft Outlook teaches accepting user inputs for file manipulation commands; performing file manipulation subroutines corresponding to the user inputs (receiving user input of file manipulation commands such as selecting and dragging the file and carrying out the user inputted commands; for example, user manipulation of the file shown in Screenshot 12 of selecting and dragging the file to the “Co-workers” folder causes the manipulation subroutine to place the file into the “Co-workers” folder, as shown in Screenshot 13); and associating file attachments with the user selected folders, and locating the file attachments in the respective folder by allocating the file attachments folder space in a file folder

of the files to which the file attachments are associated (users can select email files with associated file attachments and store them into different directory folders, as shown in Screenshots 9-10 and 12-13).

Referring to claims 21 and 25, Microsoft Outlook teaches transferring email communications to and from a host and manipulating data included in the email communications in accordance with the association of the subset of files with the folders and the allocation of file attachments folder space (sending and receiving email via the Outlook interface shown in Screenshot 2, and manipulating the attached files of the emails within the activity folder, such as selecting and opening an attachment, as shown in Screenshot 5), the transfer including determining whether the message is a record in a standardized file format; if the message is a record in the standardized format, presenting the record in an ordered manner (determining if the message is a record, or email in a standardized format, i.e. a format that matches a filter rule, and if the mail file does meet the filter rules, present, or place the mail file in the corresponding folder, as shown in Screenshots 3-4); and determining whether the message is a record in a predetermined format including association of file attachments (determining whether the message has associated attachments, with the display of an attachments indicating icon shown in Screenshot 2), and permitting the user to assign the file attachments to a respective folder by allocating the file attachments folder space in a file folder of the files to which the file attachments are associated (users can select email files with associated file attachments and store them into different directory folders, as shown in Screenshots 9-10 and 12-13).

Referring to claim 23, Microsoft Outlook teaches code for accepting user inputs for file manipulation commands and performing file manipulation subroutines corresponding to the user

inputs (user input via a cursor control device for performing manipulation of the files, such as selection of attached files shown in Screenshot 5), wherein communication files of one or more application type files are associated with at least one activity folder as one or more file attachments, wherein the file attachments are located in a current user defined activity folder (one or more emails with one or more attached files are stored in folders) (Screenshot 5), the file attachments including but not limited to attachment notes, file identification modifiers and external file links (the file attachments can include attached notes, i.e. memos, hyperlinks to web pages, PowerPoint slides, etc.) (Screenshot 6).

Referring to claim 31, Microsoft Outlook teaches the general folder structure is part of a tree directory structure maintained by the information handling system (as shown by the hierarchical tree structure on the left hand side of the Microsoft Outlook interface shown in Screenshot 2).

Referring to claim 32, Microsoft Outlook teaches the activity folder comprises related files of one or more application types (the folders comprises related emails, i.e. corresponding to a same user set up rule as shown in Screenshot 4, which comprises attachments of one or more types, i.e. PowerPoint files, Excel files, etc., as shown in Screenshot 5), wherein the activity folder is one of the following: a user-defined folder, a system defined folder, a program-defined folder (the folders can be defined by the user, i.e. via users creating and renaming the folders, as shown in Screenshots 7 and 8).

Referring to claims 33 and 34, Microsoft Outlook teaches the one or more files of the activity folder are related according to at least one of the following: activity, work session, project, task, operation, date, time, order, client, user input, and contact information (users can

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select rules for placing files inside the activity folders, via the contact information, i.e. sender) (Screenshot 4).

Referring to claim 35, Microsoft Outlook teaches the method of identifying the communication includes at least one of the following: creating, receiving, accessing, storing, processing, moving, copying, and sending the communication (receiving an incoming email) (Screenshot 3).

Referring to claim 36, Microsoft Outlook teaches each of the one or more separate files of the communication in a particular activity folder are identified as related files of the communication (each of the separate attached files of a communication, or email, are stored together as related files of a particular email within the folder) (Screenshot 5).

Referring to claim 37, Microsoft Outlook teaches manipulating includes at least one of the following: storing, processing, accessing, deleting, sending, receiving, creating, moving, copying, viewing, renaming and editing (accessing, i.e. selecting and opening, the attached files) (Screenshot 5).

Referring to claim 38, Microsoft Outlook teaches manipulating the separate files of the communication includes manipulating the separate files between one or more activity folders (the separate attached files of the emails can be manipulated between one or more folders via moving the email comprising the attached files from one folder to another; for example, the attached memo file shown in Screenshot 9 is moved from the "Inbox" folder in Screenshot 9 to the "Personal" folder in Screenshot 10).

Referring to claim 39, Microsoft Outlook teaches identifying at least one of the files of the communication from the activity folder and manipulating the identified file from the activity

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folder in response to a user input (identifying, i.e. users selecting at least one of the emails comprising attached files from the activity folder, as shown in Screenshot 11, and manipulating the selected email comprising the attached files according to user input, i.e. users selecting and opening attached files, etc., as shown in Screenshot 5).

Referring to claim 40, Microsoft Outlook teaches storing the manipulated one or more files of the communication with related one or more files of the activity folder (user selected files, i.e. shown highlighted in Screenshot 2, are shown stored in the folder, in this case, in the “Inbox” folder, with other related files).

Referring to claim 41, Microsoft Outlook teaches the stored one or more files of the communication is identified as related to the communication in the activity folder the file is stored (received emails in the folder comprises attached files and are therefore related to the attached files) (Screenshot 5).

Referring to claim 42, Microsoft Outlook teaches the communication comprising one or more files of one or more application types comprises one or more of the following: application files, document files, contact files, communication files and web files (the incoming files are emails, which are communication files, and the incoming emails further comprises attached document files) (Screenshots 5-6).

Referring to claim 43, Microsoft Outlook teaches the communication comprising one or more files of one or more application types is identified as an email communication file and related attachments to the email communication file (incoming emails with attachments, i.e. attached files to the incoming email) (Screenshot 3).

Referring to claim 44, Microsoft Outlook teaches the communication comprising one or more files of one or more application types is identified as a text file and related attachments to the text file (the incoming email is a text file, i.e. contains text and attached text documents) (Screenshot 6).

Referring to claim 45, as best understood by the examiner, Microsoft Outlook teaches identifying one or more files of one or more application types and storing the identified files in the particular activity folder as separate files that can be manipulated from the activity folder regardless of application type (receiving mail comprising one or more attached files of different types, such as PowerPoint files, Excel files, etc., that can be automatically placed in a particular folder, as shown in Screenshot 3, according to the rules set up by the user, as shown in Screenshot 4; furthermore, as shown in Screenshot 5, each of the attached files of the email messages from the folders has a separate status so that users can manipulate, i.e. select, each individual file separately).

Referring to claim 46, Microsoft Outlook teaches the information handling system associates an application program for each of the one or more application types of the one or more files of the communication (application programs for opening the attached files, i.e. PowerPoint files opened via the Power Point program and Excel files opened via the Excel programs, as shown in Screenshot 19), and further comprising separating the communication upon arrival into an email communication file and one or more related attachment files of one or more application type and storing the mail file and the one or more related attachment files of one or more application type in the particular activity folder as related files (received mail comprising one or more attached files can automatically be placed in a particular folder, as

shown in Screenshot 3, according to the rules set up by the user, as shown in Screenshot 4; furthermore, each of the separate attached files of a communication, or email, are stored together as related files of a particular email within the folder, as shown in Screenshot 5); and manipulating at least one of the following: the email file and the one or more related attachment files as separate files in the particular activity folder without accessing the application program associated with the one or more application types of the one or more files of the communication (as shown in Screenshot 5, each of the attached files of the mail message from the folders has a separate status so that users can manipulate, i.e. select, each individual file separately).

Referring to claim 47, Microsoft Outlook teaches manipulating includes at least one of the following: storing, processing, accessing, deleting, sending, receiving, creating, moving, copying, viewing, renaming and editing (accessing, i.e. selecting and opening, the attached files) (Screenshot 5).

Referring to claim 48, Microsoft Outlook teaches identifying at least one of the files of the communication from the activity folder and manipulating the identified file in the activity folder in response to a user input (identifying, i.e. users selecting at least one of the emails comprising attached files from the activity folder, as shown in Screenshot 11, and manipulating the selected email comprising the attached files according to user input, i.e. users selecting and opening attached files, etc., as shown in Screenshot 5).

Referring to claim 49, Microsoft Outlook teaches identifying at least one of the files of the communication includes at least one of the following: creating, receiving, accessing, storing, processing, editing, moving, copying and sending the file (receiving an incoming email) (Screenshot 3).

Referring to claim 50, Microsoft Outlook teaches storing the manipulated file with related one or more files in one or more activity folders regardless of application type (user selected attachment file type, such as PowerPoint files or Excel files are associated with its email file and other attachment files of the associated email file, as shown in Screenshot 5).

Referring to claim 51, Microsoft Outlook teaches only one of the following is manipulated: the email message file and the one or more related attachment files (users can manipulate, i.e. select and open the attachment files without opening, or manipulating the associated email file, as shown in Screenshot 5).

Referring to claim 52, Microsoft Outlook teaches the manipulating is limited to manipulating the one or more related attachment files in the particular activity folder, without manipulating the related email file, by one or more of the following: processing and performing operations on the one or more related attachment file (users can manipulate via processing and performing operations such as selecting and opening the attachment files without opening, or manipulating the associated email file, as shown in Screenshot 5).

Referring to claim 53, Microsoft Outlook teaches a method comprising providing a computer interface wherein a user defined activity folder comprises objects of different application types as related objects regardless of the application type (user defined directory folders, shown on the left hand side of the Outlook interface shown in Screenshot 2, comprises a plurality of emails, with a plurality of objects, or attached files of different application types, such as PowerPoint files, Excel files, etc., as shown in Screenshot 5); manipulating at least one of the objects of different application types from the activity folder of the computer interface (emails comprising the objects, or attachments of different types within the activity folders can

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be manipulated via selecting and opening the attached file of the email from the corresponding folder) (Screenshot 5); associating one or more functionalities with the objects of different types and coupling the associated functionalities of the objects such that these functionalities are available to a user within the user defined activity folder (the attached files of different types has associated functionalities, such as the functionalities of allowing users to select and open the attached files, so that users can manipulate the files of the emails within the activity folders via using the functionalities of selecting and opening the attached files) (Screenshots 5 and 19).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 15-16 and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Microsoft® Outlook, copyright 1998 (Screenshot 1), as applied to claims 30 and 22 above, and Venkatraman et al. U.S. Patent 6,014,688.

Referring to claims 15 and 27, Microsoft Outlook teaches all of the limitations as applied to claims 30 and 22 above. In addition, Microsoft Outlook teaches transferring email communications to and from a host and manipulating data included in the one or more related attachments of the email communications in accordance with the activity folder (sending and

receiving email via the Outlook interface shown in Screenshot 2, and manipulating the attached files of the emails within the activity folder, such as selecting and opening an attachment, as shown in Screenshot 5) and if the transfer is a receive operation, permitting input from a user to assign the file attachments to an activity folder (when an email with attachments is received, users can assign the email, and also the corresponding file attachments to a desired folder, as shown in Screenshots 17-18). However, Microsoft Outlook fails to explicitly teach if the transfer is a send operation, determining if the recipient is tagged for encryption, and if the recipient is tagged for encryption, sending the file in encrypted form. Venkatraman et al. teach an email program capable of transferring messages to and from a host (Venkatraman et al.: column 1, lines 51-59 and Abstract) similar to that of Microsoft Outlook. In addition, Venkatraman et al. further teach if the transfer is a send operation, determining if the recipient is tagged for encryption, and if the recipient is tagged for encryption, sending the file in encrypted form (Venkatraman et al.: column 4, lines 61 – column 5, line 2 and column 6, line 51- column 7, line 5). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Microsoft Outlook and Venkatraman et al. before him at the time the invention was made, to modify the email program for sending and receiving emails of Microsoft Outlook to include the ability to send encrypted emails taught by Venkatraman et al. One would have been motivated to make such a combination in order to provide more security and privacy for personal and confidential material that are sent via electronic messages and it further allows verification of message receipt.

Referring to claim 16, Microsoft Outlook, as modified, teach accepting user inputs for file manipulation commands and performing a file manipulation subroutines corresponding to

the user inputs (receiving user input of file manipulation commands such as selecting and dragging a file and carrying out the user inputted command; for example, user manipulation of the file shown in Screenshot 12 of selecting and dragging the file to the “Co-workers” folder causes the manipulation subroutine of placing the file into the “Co-workers” folder, as shown in Screenshot 13); and associating file attachments with selected ones of the files, and locating the file attachments in the related activity folder (selected files, or emails, which can have associated attachments, such as attached files, are displayed in folders with other related email files according to user selected rules) (Microsoft Outlook: Screenshots 3-4).

8. The prior art made of record on form PTO-892 and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Applicant is required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111(c) to consider these references fully when responding to this action. The documents cited therein teach similar interfaces for providing mailing and filing functionalities.

Response to Arguments

9. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-29 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

10. Furthermore, the Examiner notes that claim language such as “thereby” merely suggests limitations or makes limitations optional. In using claim language such as “thereby” applicant has not required steps to be performed or limited an apparatus to a particular structure (see MPEP 2106).

11. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

Conclusion


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ting Zhou whose telephone number is (571) 272-4058. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 7:00 am - 4:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Cabeca can be reached at (571) 272-4048. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-4058.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

TZ



RAYMOND J. BAYERL
PRIMARY EXAMINER
ART UNIT 2173